



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

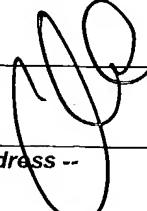
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

*[Signature]*

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,571	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP01P12032	7324
24131	7590	06/16/2004	EXAMINER	
LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA				LU, JIPING
P O BOX 2480				
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3749		

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/608,571	BOLDUAN ET AL. 
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Jiping Lu	3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
      1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/27/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi (JP06126098A).

Takeuchi shows a method and an apparatus for cloth dewatering. The cloth 12 is successively brought in contact with absorbent body 23 of absorbent material 38, 40 same as applicant's.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (JP06126098A).

The cloth dewatering apparatus of Takeuchi as above includes all that is recited in claim 13 except for the material of the absorbent body. However, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Takeuchi with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

6. Claims 5, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (JP06126098A) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,722,053).

Takeuchi shows a method and an apparatus for cloth dewatering. The cloth 12 is successively brought in contact with absorbent body 23 of absorbent material 38, 40 same as applicant's. Henry et al. teach a concept of using pressure-exerting roller 5 for squeeze drying same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering method and apparatus of Takeuchi with pressure-exerting roller as taught by Takeuchi in order to remove the moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing. With regard to the claimed material of the absorbent body in claim 16, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having

Art Unit: 3749

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Takeuchi with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Candor et al. (U. S. Pat. Shows a method and apparatus for treating sheet-like material. Georges (U. S. Pat. 4,592,497) shows heating coat-hanger for garments. Bolduan et al. (U. S. Pub. 2004/90000068A1) shows a method and apparatus for drying items of clothing. JP 08049161 shows a clothing drying device. Ishimi et al. (JP61007100) shows a drying apparatus.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 703-308-2354. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 703 308-1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jiping Lu  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3749

J. L.